

The Louisville Journal

Cumberland Plateau, Kentucky – June 1861

A CRITIQUE OF DECISION TO WITHHOLD TROOPS FROM SERVING FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Just over a month ago, a vote was held in which a decision was made to deny the request made by United States of America to provide four regiments of Kentucky State Guard troops to aid in the war effort. This decision was made on a slim vote, narrowly decided by a mere one vote, and many are questioning the decision, as it may be interpreted by the Federal Government that Kentucky is attempting to serve both sides by not entering the fight directly. However, it is the belief by some that the decision will cause the Federal Government to decide to march troops into Kentucky to defend her, instead of allowing the State Guard to do so itself.

Providing troops to the Federal Government while keeping them in Kentucky would be more of a symbolic gesture of support, as we would not have to send our troops out of the state to fight battles in an offensive manner. The gesture would have been to align ourselves with the Union while not having to fully commit Kentuckian men to the war effort.

LAWYER BINTON GIVES THOUGHTS ON WITHHOLDING SOLDIERS FROM UNION

The following segment is a letter that was sent to *The Louisville Journal* by local lawyer Bawyer Binton giving his opinion of the vote to withhold troops from being provided to the Union:

"As a legislator of Kentucky, I am feeling particularly conflicted regarding the most recent events in the legislature. As many are already aware, I stand firmly with the Union and I am glad we have voted not to secede. I believe this to have been a wise

decision for the future of Kentucky, and I stand by my decision in the vote.

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With that, however, I am concerned about the ultimatums presented by both the Union and the Confederacy. Each requested troops from Kentucky, and we naturally did decline the confederates request, but the conditions under which we granted the Unions request might put us in a strained relationship with the north. It seems we agreed to do so only in name, keeping our troops firmly in Kentucky. I believe it is wise to offer some degree of support to the Union after deciding not to secede; It grants us some hope of protection from the Union in case the Confederates decide to invade our state, however we do not have a response from the Union, and they may see our conditions as absurd.

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The truth of the matter is, we are not sending troops to support the Union, no matter how it is phrased. We say we agreed, but that is most evidently not what we did. If our troops remain in Kentucky then they are not supporting the Union. Certainly, the Inspector General finds this to be agreeable, he does not have to make any sacrifice of his precious troops; Yet I do not believe that our decision will have a positive outcome for our people. The Union could certainly view this as an insult, and I cannot find it in myself to disagree with that. The Confederacy has no reason not to attack us now that war is breaking out, as we are part of the Union.

In addition to this, the legislature seems inclined to try to force an idealistic notion of "neutrality". The fact of the matter is that we are not neutral. We had the option to join the Confederacy or stay with the Union. We chose to stay. That is, regardless of what some may lead you to believe, making a choice. The Confederacy will see this as us choosing to support the Union, yet in truth we offer no support to the Union nor reason for them to provide us aid should we become a target of the Confederates.

Some in the legislature think we can scrape by through disallowing soldiers of either side through our borders - this only makes us an enemy of both sides, and truly how are we meant to enforce this peaceably? If they want to go through Kentucky, they will. If war is to happen, Kentucky will not be able to avoid it, and the idea that we can is foolish. I can only hope that our fellow legislators will make a reasonable decision in our next session."

John B. Dunham.



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UNION DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CONVENTION.

The District Committee have determined, in obedience to the wishes of the Union men of the District, to call a Convention for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Congress. It will meet at Lagrange, on Monday, the 24 of June.

J. F. SPEED,
RICHARD T. JACOB,
H. J. HILLING,
G. A. HOUGHTON,
Committee for Seventh District.

Union Convention in the Fifth Congressional District.

The District Committee have determined, in obedience to the wishes of the Union men of the District, to call a Convention for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Congress. The Convention will meet at Lebanon, on Friday, the 7th day of June.

JAMES F. BARBOUR,
JOHN E. NEWMAN,
JAMES G. PHILLIPS,
E. A. SPALDING,
ROBERT A. BUSTON,
Committee for Fifth District.

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Public Speaking.

Captain Wm. J. Heady, Union candidate for the Legislature in Bullitt county, Ky., will address his fellow-citizens at the following times and places. Speaking at two o'clock each day:

Pitts' Point, Friday, May 31.
Lebanon Junction, June 1.
Leach's, Monday, June 3.
Mt. Washington, Tuesday, June 4.
Bell's Mill, Wednesday, June 5.
Peter Miller's, Thursday, June 6.
Shepherdsville, June County Court day.

Public Speaking.

The following is a list of appointments of Hon. H. Grider, Union candidate for Congress in the Third Congressional District:

Glasgow, Saturday, May 25th.
Edmonston, Monday, May 27th.
Ray's Cross Roads, Tuesday, May 28th.
Tompkinsville, Wednesday, May 29th.
Jintown, Thursday, May 30th.
Glasville, Friday, May 31st.
Allen Springs, Saturday, June 1st.
Mundfordville, Monday, June 3d.
Lafayette, Tuesday, June 4th.
Glasgow, Wednesday, June 5th.
Franklin, Saturday, June 8th.
Middleton, Monday, June 10th.
Russellville, Tuesday, June 11th.
Allensville, Wednesday, June 12th.
Elkton, Thursday, June 13th.
Fairview, Friday, June 14th.
South Union Depot, Saturday, June 15th.
Brownsville, Monday, June 17th.

MR. W. E. Riley, Union candidate for Congress in the Fifth Congressional District, will address his fellow-citizens at the following times and places:

Hodgenville, on the 29th inst.
Red Mills, on the 30th inst.
Stephensburg, on the 31st inst.
Big Spring, on the 1st of June.
Brandenburg, on the 3d of June.
Concordia, on the 4th of June.
Garnettsville, on the 5th of June.
West Point, on the 6th of June.
Shepherdsville, on the 7th of June.
Mt. Washington, on the 8th of June.
Bardstow, on the 10th of June.
New Haven, on the 11th of June.
Elizabethtown, on the 12th of June.
Boston, on the 13th of June.

Bloomfield, on the 14th of June.
Taylorville on the 15th of June.
Camdenville, on the 17th of June.
Salvia, on the 18th of June.
Cornishville, on the 19th of June.

MR. The following are the appointments of Mr. Sparks, of Henry county:

Hendersonville, Thursday, May 30th.
Campbellburg, Friday, May 31st.
Port Royal, Saturday, June 1st.
New Castle, Monday, June 3d.
Speaking to commence at 1 o'clock, P. M.

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BAPTIST FARMER WEIGHS HIS THOUGHTS ON THE WAR

Editorial by John Mariner

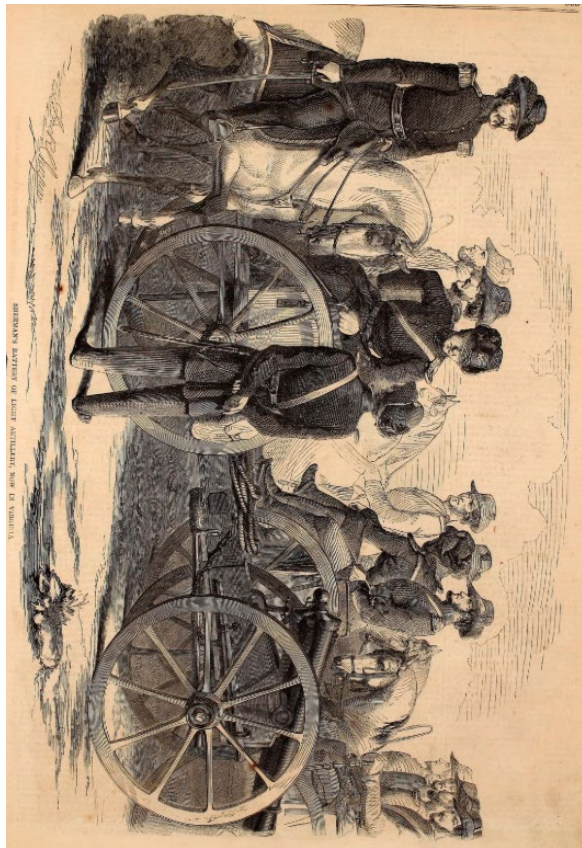
The thought that war would erupt between states over slavery is incredibly saddening. A peaceful resolution was possible and still is possible if the right people come and speak with one another like rational men. Despite all our best efforts, the continuation of this war will almost certainly drag Kentucky in and lead to the bloodshed of many of our fellow statesmen. The Federal Government has already requested we provide our precious State Guardsmen to assist in the war efforts. While we ultimately refused to give up our men to show their bravery in the war, a part of me believes that by not lending out direct support, we could be painting a larger target on our backs for not fully committing

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to the Union. The only way I could possibly see the conflict ending in a beneficial way for both sides is through peace and litigation.

The issue of slavery is one that I have complex feelings of. Now, I am by far not one of those scoundrel abolitionists, but I am certainly deeply opposed to the current state of the institution and the barbarism associated with it. Is the way we treat our slaves the way God intended we treat our fellow men? Though I would not like it to disappear too suddenly, the current trend of the practice is leading me to believe that, with given time and proper handling by the government, the practice will eventually become less prevalent and, where it still is, far less barbaric and devilish.



Sherman's Battery of Artillery, Now in Virginia

THE ADVANCE INTO VIRGINIA.

SHORTLY after midnight, on the morning of March 24, the "Advance Guard of the great Army of the United States" entered the State of Virginia opposite Washington, crossing by the Long Bridge at Alexandria, and the Iron Bridge at Georgetown. We publish on page 356, from a drawing by our special artist, an engraving of the ARMY CROSSING THE LONG BRIDGE. The following description of the scene is from the *Herald*:

"The order to march for Virginia at two o'clock this morning was communicated to the officers of the different regiments at the evening parades, but it was kept from the men until shortly before midnight, when it was generally promulgated. It was received by the various corps with true martial enthusiasm. The men having been kept in readiness since the night before last, the final packing up did not require much time. At midnight all were ready to move. The Fifth and Twenty-eighth New York regiments, having the longest distance to march to the rendezvous from the Capitol to Georgetown, commenced moving at half-past twelve. They came down the avenue with, as heretofore, soul-stirring, far-sounding martial strains, but with quiet tread, more like that of hundreds than thousands of men. Soon after they had passed, the New Jersey brigade, the Michigan regiment, and the Twelfth and Seventh of New York, crossed the avenue with equal quietness. So little noise did they cause that hardly any of the denizens of Washington were awakened from their peaceful slumbers.

"The scene at the bridges was grand and impressive beyond description, and one that the writer will ever remember. The night was cool and clear, thousands of men were drawn up in line and defiling past, but hardly a whisper was heard from among them. They all preserved a solemn silence, as though sensible of the momentousness of the occasion; but the rumbling of artillery, the clatter of cavalry, the muskets and ordnance glittering in the moonlight, the suppressed commands of the officers, imparted, nevertheless, a liveliness to the imposing spectacle.

"The troops took rations for only two days along, but large quantities of provisions will be conveyed across the river to-day. All the troops carried their knapsacks, blankets, canteens, etc., with the exception of the Seventh, which went without knapsacks. From this it was inferred that the latter corps would make but a short stay on the right bank of the Potomac.

"The main body of the troops were all across the two bridges in two hours after they commenced entering upon them. Three or four companies marched over at a time, in broken steps."

Colophon

Today's edition of *The Louisville Journal* was written and edited by John Mariner.

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